

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an electronic endoscope using an imaging element comprising a colour filter for pixel binning, it is possible to carry out outline enhancement processing, zoom processing, and the like, to a high degree of detail. An optical chopper 36 in the form of a semi-circular plate is caused to rotate at 1/30th second per revolution, and images are captured in time periods of 1/60th second separated by light shielding intervals of 1/60th second. An imaging signal for the odd-numbered lines and the even-numbered lines is read out successively from the imaging element at 1/60th second intervals, and stored in memories 23 and 24, respectively. By means of mixing circuit 25, odd-numbered field data is obtained by mixing imaging data for the even-numbered lines and their subsequent odd-numbered lines, and even-numbered field data is obtained by mixing imaging data for the odd-numbered lines and their subsequent even-numbered lines, whereupon the field data undergoes colour signal processing, and the like, in the DVP 27, and is then stored temporarily in the third memory 28. This data is converted to sequential scan imaging data by reading out the data repeatedly in alternate sequence whilst switching the number of the binning line. DVP 31 implements outline enhancement processing, zoom processing, and the like, using this sequential scan imaging data.